

## In the Claims

Please amend claims 1-6, and add new claim 7 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Surgically~~ A surgically implantable adjustable ring (1) for constricting a tubular organ, the adjustable ring comprising:

an open ring body having closure system including a first (3) and a second (4) end parts, the open ring body being and which is designed to be closed around [[a]]the tubular organ; towards its two end parts (3, 4) by

a the closure system (2, 5) to adjust the diameter of said constricting the tubular organ by closing the ring and forming the ring into a loop[[,]]; and

the first end part (3) forming including a sleeve having a first (6) and a second (7) open end parts and which is portions, the sleeve being designed to receive the ring second end part (4), the sleeve main axis being defined along a direction which is disposed in a substantially perpendicular direction in relation to the main direction of the ring first end part (3), the ring second part (4) furthermore comprising a locking protrusion (2) adapted to hold engage an aperture in the sleeve, (3) and thereby secure securing the ring in a closed position, characterized by the fact that the sleeve (3) comprises a hole (5) designed to receive said locking protrusion (2).

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Adjustable~~ The adjustable ring according to claim 1, wherein the second portion of the sleeve second end part (7) contains said hole (5) and the aperture, and wherein the second portion of the sleeve partially covers

overlaps the ring second end part (4) the second part when the ring is in the closed position.

3. (Currently amended) ~~Adjustable~~ The adjustable ring according to claim 2, the first end part further comprising a reinforcement structure (8), for instance a flange, situated on at least the hole side which is in close contact with the protrusion (2) when the ring (1) is closed.

4. (Currently amended) ~~Adjustable~~ The adjustable ring according to ~~anyone of the previous claims~~ claim 1, further comprising a tab (9) extending from the sleeve second end part (7). second portion of the sleeve.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~Adjustable~~ The adjustable ring according to claim 4, wherein the tab (9) comprises a flexible portion, being more flexible than the remaining part portion of the tab, which is situated close to said sleeve hole (5), in such a way as to prevent the flexible portion being situated in the proximity of the aperture, the flexible portion preventing an accidental opening of the closure system after the adjustable ring is disposed around the tubular organ.

6. (Currently amended) ~~Adjustable~~ The adjustable ring according to claim 5, wherein said flexible portion comprises a hole (10) an opening.

7. (New) The adjustable ring according to claim 3, wherein the reinforcement structure comprises a flange disposed transversally to the external perimeter of the ring.

## REMARKS

### Introduction

The present application is the national phase of International application No. PCT/IB2005/050822, published as International Publication No. WO 2005/087147. The amendments herein are being introduced to convert the specification to standard American English, and to format the claims to USPTO format requirements.

### In the Specification

The enclosed substitute specification is submitted pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.125, because the number of amendments is likely to make legibility of the specification difficult.

Language has been added to paragraph [0017] to provide proper antecedent basis to claim 5. No new matter has been added.

A marked-up copy and a clean copy of the specification are enclosed herewith.

### In the Claims

Claims 1-6 have been amended to comply with USPTO format requirements.

New claim 7 is directed to the reinforcement structure of claim 3 shaped like a flange. Support for new claim 7 can be found in the specification and drawings, for example, in the portions of FIGS. 1 and 2 indicated by reference numeral 12.